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1047 Welsh Ayres Way
Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335
August 8, 2011

Mr. Todd Stevenson
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

We are writing this letter in support of the Petition filed by Carol Pollack-Nelson, Ph.D. for a rule to require safeguards on glass fronts of gas fireplaces. Our support for this measure is a result of dealing with a personal tragedy.

On March 15, 2011, we stayed at a hotel in Pennsylvania with our 18 month old daughter, Julianne. The hotel suite had a gas fireplace which we thought was for decorative purposes. We have never had a gas fireplace at home, and we had very little experience with them before the accident.

A short time after it was turned on, my daughter, Julianne, toddled over to the fireplace to watch the pretty blue flame and placed her hands on the glass front, resulting in severe contact burns on both palms.

Julianne was hospitalized for over one week at a burn center after initial emergency room care. Her wounds were cleaned daily, and even with anesthesia, she would cry and scream the entire time. Our outgoing and friendly little girl had become a terrified and traumatized baby, and it broke our hearts every day.

Since her discharge she has undergone graft surgery and may require additional surgeries to ensure full use of her hands. She continues to receive care presently. It has been very difficult for her, and she often struggles with using her hands in tasks that other children her age can do.

We understand the road to recovery will be long and painful, and our daughter will be left with permanent ongoing problems in her ability to use her hands.

We were very disturbed to hear that our daughter is just one of many children who have been injured by gas fireplaces. This nightmare would have been easily avoidable if the manufacturers were required to include some form of barrier to prevent young children from touching the glass fronts. We urge the CPSC to pass the rules necessary to prevent another tragedy happening to another young child.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher and Kathy Gannon